

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) An image pick-up device comprising:

image signal generation means for generating an image signal of a variable frame-rate
picked-up image;

drive-and-control means for driving and controlling the image signal generation means;

setting information generation means for generating image pick-up setting information to
generate an image signal which is frame-synchronized with the image signal generated by the
image signal generation means, wherein the setting information generation means makes
information of a scan line position and a pixel position of an image signal included in the image
pick-up setting, said information being generated by the image signal generation means
information; and

output means for outputting the image signal generated by the image signal generation
means and the image pick-up setting information.

5. (Previously Presented) An image pick-up device comprising:

image signal generation means for generating an image signal of a variable frame-rate
picked-up image;

drive-and-control means for driving and controlling the image signal generation means;

setting information generation means for generating image pick-up setting information to
generate an image signal which is frame-synchronized with the image signal generated by the
image signal generation means;

output means for outputting the image signal generated by the image signal generation means and the image pick-up setting information; and

holding means for holding a frame rate alteration pattern,

wherein the drive-and-control means drives and controls the image signal generation means, starting from a frame of the variable frame-rate picked-up image that is given first after the image pick-up setting information is output, by setting the instructed frame rate as a frame rate of the variable frame-rate picked-up image.

6. (Previously Presented) An image pick-up device comprising:

image signal generation means for generating an image signal of a variable frame-rate picked-up image;

drive-and-control means for driving and controlling the image signal generation means;

setting information generation means for generating image pick-up setting information to generate an image signal which is frame-synchronized with the image signal generated by the image signal generation means;

output means for outputting the image signal generated by the image signal generation means and the image pick-up setting information;

a plurality of frame rate instruction means each for instructing a frame rate of the variable frame-rate picked-up image; and

operation control means for setting priority sequence to the plurality of frame rate instruction means, to set a frame rate instructed by the frame rate instruction means that has the highest priority as a frame rate of the variable frame-rate picked-up image,

wherein the setting information generation means generates image pick-up setting information which is used to generate an image signal that is frame-synchronized with an image signal having the set frame rate of the variable frame-rate picked-up image.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) An image pick-up device comprising:

image signal generation means for generating an image signal of a variable frame-rate picked-up image; and

drive-and-control means for receiving image pick-up setting information to generate an image signal that is frame-synchronized with the image signal of a reference variable frame-rate picked-up image, and controlling a driving operation of the image signal generation means based on this image pick-up setting information, thereby frame-synchronizing the image signal generated by the image signal generation means with the image signal of the reference variable frame-rate picked-up image,

wherein, if the image pick-up setting information contains frame rate information indicating a frame rate of the reference variable frame-rate picked-up image, the drive-and-control means drives the image signal generation means, starting from a frame of the variable frame-rate picked-up image that is given first after this image pick-up setting information is input, by setting a frame rate indicated by the frame rate information contained in the input image pick-up setting information as a frame rate of the variable frame-rate picked-up image.

9. (Previously Presented) An image pick-up device

image signal generation means for generating an image signal of a variable frame-rate picked-up image; and

drive-and-control means for receiving image pick-up setting information to generate an image signal that is frame-synchronized with the image signal of a reference variable frame-rate picked-up image, and controlling a driving operation of the image signal generation means based on this image pick-up setting information, thereby frame-synchronizing the image signal generated by the image signal generation means with the image signal of the reference variable frame-rate picked-up image.

wherein, if the image pick-up setting information contains information of a scan line position and a pixel position, the drive-and-control means synchronizes an image signal generated by the image signal generation means with the scan line position and the pixel position.

10. (Previously Presented) An image pick-up device comprising:

image signal generation means for generating an image signal of a variable frame-rate picked-up image;

drive-and-control means for receiving image pick-up setting information to generate an image signal that is frame-synchronized with the image signal of a reference variable frame-rate picked-up image, and controlling a driving operation of the image signal generation means based on this image pick-up setting information, thereby frame-synchronizing the image signal generated by the image signal generation means with the image signal of the reference variable frame-rate picked-up image; and

holding means for holding a frame rate alteration pattern,

wherein, if the image pick-up setting information includes information which is used to read the frame rate alteration pattern, the holding means reads the frame rate alteration pattern

indicated by this information and instructs a frame rate in accordance with this read frame rate alteration pattern; and

11. (Previously Presented) An image pick-up device comprising:

image signal generation means for generating an image signal of a variable frame-rate picked-up image;

drive-and-control means for receiving image pick-up setting information to generate an image signal that is frame-synchronized with the image signal of a reference variable frame-rate picked-up image, and controlling a driving operation of the image signal generation means based on this image pick-up setting information, thereby frame-synchronizing the image signal generated by the image signal generation means with the image signal of the reference variable frame-rate picked-up image;

frame rate instruction means for instructing a frame rate of the variable frame-rate picked-up image; and

operation control means for setting priority sequence to the frame rate instructed by the frame rate instruction means and the frame rate based on the image pick-up setting information, to set the frame rate that has higher priority as the frame rate of the variable frame-rate picked-up image,

wherein the drive-and-control means drives the image signal generation means by using the frame rate of the variable frame-rate picked-up image as the frame rate that is set by the operation control means.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The image pick-up device ~~comprising:~~ according to claim 11,

~~image signal generation means for generating an image signal of a variable frame-rate picked-up image; and~~

~~drive and control means for receiving image pick-up setting information to generate an image signal that is frame-synchronized with the image signal of a reference variable frame-rate picked-up image, and controlling a driving operation of the image signal generation means based on this image pick-up setting information, thereby frame-synchronizing the image signal generated by the image signal generation means with the image signal of the reference variable frame-rate picked-up image,~~

wherein, if input of the image pick-up setting information is stopped when higher priority is set to a frame rate based on the image pick-up setting information than a frame rate instructed by the frame rate instruction means, the operation control means sets a frame rate set before the input of the image pick-up setting information as the frame rate of the variable frame-rate picked-up image.

13. (Original) The image pick-up device according to claim 11, wherein, if input of the image pick-up setting information is stopped when higher priority is set to a frame rate based on the image pick-up setting information than a frame rate instructed by the frame rate instruction means, the operation control means sets a frame rate at the time when the input of the image pick-up setting information is stopped, as the frame rate of the variable frame-rate picked-up image.

14-17. (Canceled)